

Manager's View

**A monthly e-mail message from
County Manager Tom Zdunek**

“A Time for Reflection”

December 2012

As the end of the calendar year approaches and another year lies before us, full of opportunity and possibility, I would like to wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season. This time of year is often a time of personal and professional reflection; a time to look back on accomplishments and make vows for the future.

I am proud of the county's many accomplishments over the past year, which would not have been possible without the support and commitment of our Board of County Commissioners. We moved toward greater transparency and public awareness of our actions through our award-winning web site. We developed a strategic plan with updated mission statement, goal statements and short-term strategic objectives and published all of it for the public and employees to review and provide comments and input. We began publishing our quarterly performance data to keep the public informed about how we are doing. We worked on improving our customer service to better meet the needs of our customers. We worked diligently to expand jobs and create economic opportunities for businesses locating in our county. We continued to improve the county's infrastructure through road improvement projects and flood reduction efforts. And I'm pleased that, though times have been tough lately, we were able to provide pay increases to our employees, all the while maintaining quality fiscal services as made evident by our recent outstanding audit report.

There are, however, challenges ahead. The jail continues to be a focal point of our efforts as we grapple with solutions to address crowding and recidivism. Growing needs for office space will force us to make difficult decisions related to the cost and benefit of continued investment in 415 Tijeras and other facilities versus consolidation of county services in a single location. The budget we must develop in the coming months for next fiscal year presents many challenges and may require some thoughtful belt tightening. And of course there are the inherent challenges in the daily work we perform.

I am confident that we will address these and other challenges that present themselves in the year ahead. I am confident in this because I am confident in you, our county employees, and your ability to be creative and productive at the work you perform, and I look forward to working with you and our Board of County Commissioners in the coming year to continue to make our county an even better place to live and work.